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E2C922UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Extension Service
Washington 25, D. C.

June 9, 1947

For administrative use only

TO ALL STATE EXTENSION DIRECTORS:

Subject: Current Farm Labor News - #16

No Extension worker should miss reading the statement by Secretary of Agriculture Clinton P. Anderson which appears in the July 1947 issue of the Extension Service Review. The extra copies of the Farm Labor number of the Review requested by the States will be forwarded promptly.

Hearings before the House and Senate committees on Agriculture and Forestry on H. R. 3367 and S. 1334 which are identical are scheduled for the week beginning June 16.

The Central States Guide "Farm Jobs from Gulf to Great Lakes" was delivered by GPO on June 6 and are being distributed to those States. Copy of Guide enclosed for your study.

With this letter is enclosed a mimeographed summary of replies to my circular letter of February 25, 1947, requesting a report on cooperation between State Extension Services and State Employment Services in handling unemployment compensation and veterans readjustment claims, under the suggested procedure distributed under date of September 6, 1945.

A joint statement by the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of Labor setting forth the procedure to be followed by State agencies in order to comply with Section 2(b) of Public Law 40 approved April 28, 1947, is in the process of being cleared. Should be available for distribution to States within a few days.

Director F. A. Anderson of Colorado, Chairman of the Land-Grant College Committee on permanent Farm Labor program has called a meeting of the Committee in Washington, D. C., June 13.

Dr. L. M. Vaughan has recently returned from a month's field trip in six of the western States--Colorado, Idaho, Washington, Oregon, California, and Utah. Most of the time was spent in the field observing labor utilization situations, visiting camps, county offices, and information stations and talking with agents, farmers and workers about seasonal labor housing, field equipment and work methods.

He reports considerable activity in all States in regard to "on-farm" labor housing. The trend is in that direction. Adjustments are also being made in central housing to provide for family groups of domestic workers and for greater responsibility by grower associations. Mechanization is proceeding rapidly with sugar beets, potatoes, haying, cotton and other crops. There is much more interest than usual by growers in the supervision, training, and efficient handling of seasonal labor.

With all this comes a critical need for more facts to guide the above developments. Studies of camp operation and policies, cost and construction of on-farm housing, the labor adjustments of mechanization, and employer-employee relations are all very much in order at the present time.

A study of management of farm labor association operated camps housing migratory farm workers is being made by John D. Hervey, Assistant Chief, Recruitment and Placement Division, Extension Farm Labor. Mr. Hervey, on a recent trip to the Pacific Coast gave particular attention to camp management practices as certain associations in Idaho and California are operating. He reports marked interest by employer associations in developing satisfactory worker housing.

Dr. Barnard Joy is meeting with the farm labor supervisors of the 7 far west States, June 11-12, Portland, Oregon, to consider further improvements in the West Coast migratory program and other farm labor matters.

Revised Section 2 budget requests for the 1947 calendar year requested in my letter May 16, have been received from 28 states to date. These budget requests are due in this office June 10. Extension of Section 2 Cooperative Agreements to January 30, 1948, have been received from 34 states. Letter regarding Extension of Section 3 cooperative agreements and preparation of revised Section 3 budget requests were sent to the states concerned on Friday, June 6.

Farm Safety Week material is included in enclosures to farm labor supervisors.

Yours very truly,

Meredith C. Wilson

Meredith C. Wilson
Deputy Director of Extension
Farm Labor Program

Enclosures

(Copy to State supervisors)

